

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED December 27, 1992

1993 JAN -6 AM 12:00
RECEIVED DEC 30 1992

Linda J. Laub
60 Black Walnut Drive
Etters, Pennsylvania 17319
(717) 938-1747

Sen. Arlen Specter
Federal Building
228 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RECEIVED
MAR 22 1993
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sen. Specter:

I am writing to you regarding the recently enacted Cable Television Bill. It was my understanding as well as the understanding of many others that the passage of this piece of legislation would either lower or keep at status quo our current cable television bills. However

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1993 JAN -6 AM 12:00

December 29, 1992

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MAR 22 1993

500 Tripoli St. - #116
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TCI Cable Company
ATT: Evan Pattak
300 Corliss Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15283

Dear Mr. Pattak:

As a longstanding subscriber who enjoys cable television, I wish to lodge a complaint. I am sending this letter on behalf of various households who have a subscription to your service throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Essentially, the complaint is for the poor reception of the "TNT" station. Not only do many people get a poor reception, but it has gone on for several years. Do you have any intentions on fixing this problem, or do you just intend to raise the rates and expect the consumer to endure such poor service from you?

Since I enjoy this station so much and others as well, I would very much appreciate it if you would please reply. Hopefully you will reply with a positive answer. If there is no remedy to this situation, I would have to think seriously about cancelling my subscription, as it would be very apparent that you are not interested in furnishing a good product, but only concerned with your own financial gain.

I would appreciate hearing from you soon, hopefully with positive results.

Sincerely,



Beverlee A. Burak

/bab

cc: Senator Harris Wofford
Representative Thomas J. Murphy
Senator Arlen Specter ✓

11-24-92

1992 DEC -3 AM 12:00
SENATOR SPECTOR

NOV 30 1992

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

THE CURRENT MONTHLY RATE BY THIS
CABLE COMPANY IS \$17.25, AS YOU CAN SEE
THEY ARE RAISING THE MONTHLY RATE WHICH
IS AGAINST 1992 CABLE ACT. THIS COMPANY
IS DELIBERATELY FLAUNTING THE LAW.

I UNDERSTAND THIS LAW WAS TO PREVENT
INCREASE IN THE COST OF CABLE TO
THE CONSUMER.

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MAR 22 1993

SENATORS COMMISSION
SECRETARY



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

3 Moore Road • Wallingford, PA 19086

November, 1992

Dear Valued Customer:

You may be aware that on October 5, 1992, the U.S. Congress enacted into law the 1992 Cable Act. As provided by that legislation and subsequently defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), cable subscribers will experience changes in channel line-ups, such as the introduction of tiers (different levels of service) and adjustments to the cable bills. For a brief explanation of some of the provisions contained in the bill, please refer to the following:

Within one year, guidelines for the price of the basic tier of cable programming will be set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This "basic" tier will consist of all local broadcast stations (such as KYW-3, WPVI-6, WCAU-10, WPHL-17, etc.), C-SPAN and our local community access channels. The FCC will establish guidelines to be used by those municipalities that elect and are qualified to oversee basic cable rates. The government authorized prices will include the cost of cable operators compliance with the many new requirements in the bill, such as payment to local broadcasters and meeting equipment standards. Rate regulation *does not* necessarily mean a rate decrease. The exact cost of complying with these rules is impossible to determine at this time.

Suburban Cable will continue to carry all of the popular cable programming services (such as AMC, ESPN, CNN, etc.), however, sometime next year, they may be offered on an optional tier, separate from the newly defined "basic" service. Rates for premium channels and pay-per-view will not be regulated.

The new requirements state that a cable company must devote one-third of its channel line-up to local station carriage. Broadcast stations must choose between the right of assured carriage ("must carry") or retransmission consent. If the broadcasters choose retransmission consent, they can negotiate for payment, in return for allowing the signal to be carried.

There are numerous other provisions contained in this legislation. As new guidelines are created by the FCC, we will keep you advised of all important changes.

We are pleased with our record in providing excellent customer service and programming choices. Over the past years, we have expanded our channel line-up, enhanced the quality of programming, including the introduction of pay-per-view service, and increased system reliability by investing in fiber optics. This state-of-the-art technology is the most advanced, efficient means used to transmit electronic signals. As we install this new technology, you will continue to see fewer cable outages and better picture quality. This will also allow us to increase channel capacity in the future. Suburban Cable experienced escalating costs in the past year such as labor, insurance, system maintenance, equipment, programming fees, franchise fees, and copyright fees. Suburban Cable rates have always been less or equal to other cable operators in the market. Reasonable rate adjustments, however, are necessary to operate our business with a high degree of customer service and reliability. As a result, the basic cable rate will be adjusted to \$19.95 beginning January 1, 1993. There will be *no* increase in the rates for HBO, PRISM, Cinemax, Disney, Showtime, additional outlets, remote control rentals, TV Host, and pay-per-view service.

If you are interested in adding more value to your cable service, we invite you to take advantage of a special installation offer on several of our popular premium services. Call before Dec. 30 and we will give you a subscription to Cinemax or Showtime for 3 months at \$3.95 per month.* This represents a monthly savings of up to \$6.00! Please call our Suburban Cable customer service department at 876-5000 for more details.

Thank you for subscribing to Suburban Cable service. We look forward to providing you with continued quality programming and the efficient customer service that you have come to expect.

Sincerely,

Stanley H. Greene
Vice President and General Manager
Suburban Cable TV

P.S. Don't miss your opportunity to ask me questions about your cable service and become eligible for a FREE month of basic cable. Call me with your questions on *The General Manager's Show*, airing live the second Wednesday and repeated the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. on Suburban 31 (Channel 31).

*Offer expires Dec. 30, 1992. Offer does not apply to premium service switches. Other restrictions may apply.

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

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MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

11/29/92

Cable firm announces rate hike

By AMANDA FISHER

TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT NORTHERN CAMBRIA BUREAU

TCI cable customers will see a 3½ percent rate hike in their monthly bill starting Jan. 1, according to TCI of Pennsylvania Inc.

Increased costs forced the increase, said Randal Bender, manager of the Carrolltown system, which has 12,000 customers in 29 Northern Cambria County communities as well as Armagh in Indiana County.

He said insurance costs for the 17 employees of the system and company vehicles have risen. In addition, money is needed to maintain equipment properly.

"It's the cost of doing business," Bender said.

Under the 1992 Cable Act, the Federal Communications Commission will establish guidelines for cable companies with respect to rate changes. Those provisions take effect April 3, 1993. Bender said he is uncertain whether the legislation will affect the announced rates.

Some of the changes announced by TCI include:

□ The monthly rate for basic service, 26 broadcast and satellite channels, will increase from \$18.32 to \$18.96.

□ The rate for the six satellite channels on expanded basic service will increase to \$2.50 from \$1.95. That package includes American Movie Classics, KBL, ESPN, USA, TNT, and Court TV.

□ Home Box Office rates will increase by 45 cents to \$13.15. Premium service combinations including HBO will also increase by 45 cents.

□ The late payment fee of \$2 will increase to \$3.

□ Converter rental will increase 50 cents to \$2.50.

TCI also will introduce three channels of pay per view movies and a "sneakpreview" channel in 1993. The new channels will be available to customers on the Carrolltown-Gallitzin system only, Bender said.

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MAR 22 1993

1993 JAN -8 AM 12:00

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

229 Pennell Ave.
Ga.

16630

Jan 1, 93

Dear Mr. Arlen Specter,

We got your letter concerning the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of being passed.

We are still getting an increase in Rates starting Jan 1, 93 since the provisions don't take effect till April 3, 93 concerning the Protection Act.

Now may have overrode the President's Veto on 11/5, 1992 but you sure left the door wide open for the Cable Company to take advantage of the Consumer before April 3, 93 so basically it sounded great but in the end we take the increase again so —

the Cable Companies come
out the winner.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

107-3158,
Altoona, PA 16602
Decem **RECEIVED**

The Hon. Arlen Specter
U.S. Senate

MAR 22 1993

Dear Sen Specter:

Within ~~1992~~ ¹⁹⁹³ ~~15~~ ¹² weeks, Warner Cable has made changes in its channel numbers. The changes they made are not in the interest of the customer.

Channels 2 to 13, the basic service, looks like this:
Three print-outs; two religious; one Public TV;
Three are the major networks: CBS, NBC, ABC;
one is the Fox Channel; two are commercials for pay TV.

Apart from the major networks, this is a poor selection. Some customers like Public TV; some like the religious channels; some like the shows on the Fox Channel.

But I know that a customer who has chosen basic service only has no use for three print-out channels - THREE - Can you believe it?! And such a customer certainly has no use for two channels that do nothing but advertise shows that appear on channels that he does not receive.

It's clear to me that Warner has packed the basic service with the least desirable selection, from the viewpoint of the consumer, and the most self-serving selection for itself.

What do you think?

Sincerely yours,
George Delaney

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Richard C. J. Kitto
Attorney at Law

EX PARTE OR LATE FILE
1992 DEC 17 AM 12:00

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MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1000 K STREET, N.W.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Post Office Box 108
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania 19046
Telephone 215-884-9979

December 11, 1992

The Honorable Arlen Specter
U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania
The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I enclose a photocopy of the last page of a 4 page leaflet we received here a few days ago.

When I called Comcast they told me that Limited Basic Service brings in what one can get over the air, essentially that is channel 3, 6, 10 and 12 and a couple of New York channels. In other words we pay \$10.00 a month for what we can get for free. We have an antenna on our house which is not operative now because of our cable subscription and we could get more channels than the \$10.00 service provides because of the geography of our location on high ground with respect to New York channels. Expanded Basic Service costs \$13.99 and you have to subscribe to that if you want CNN or ESPN. The total charge for Limited and Expanded Basic Service is the \$23.99 per month we are currently billed for.

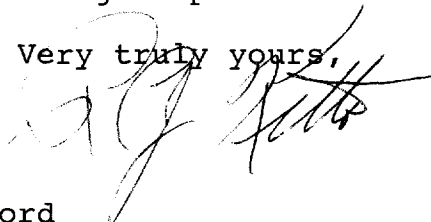
If this is the way the Congress of the United States responds to consumer complaints, we are all in really bad trouble.

I won't take the time to look it up but I suspect that Preferred Basic Service has increased in cost from somewhere around \$15.00 or \$16.00 a month to the 1993 charge of \$23.99 a month.

I am sending a copy of this letter to your colleague, Senator Wofford.

Allowing local government units to grant monopoly status to outfits like Comcast does not make good political or economic sense.

Very truly yours,



RCJK:mc
encl.

CC: The Honorable Harris Wofford

EFFECTIVE 1993*

Limited Basic Service	\$10.00
Expanded Basic Service**	\$13.99
Preferred Basic (Limited + Expanded)	\$23.99
Standard Basic (Preferred/PPV/Guide/Remote)	\$30.57
Prism	\$14.99
Primary Premium (Excluding Prism)	\$12.99
Additional Premium	\$ 8.99
Additional Outlet	\$ 6.49
Remote w/Basic or 1 Premium	\$ 4.99
Remote w/2 Premiums	\$ 1.99
Remote w/3 Premiums	FREE
All Remotes after first	\$ 4.99
Cable Television Guide	\$ 1.59
Dual VCR (2 converters hooked to one set)	\$ 3.85

PREMIUM PACKAGES

HBO/PRISM COMBO	\$47.97
PRISM PAC (Preferred Basic/Prism/PPV/ Guide/Remote)	\$45.56
PRISM PLUS (Add any Premium service to Prism Pac) ..	\$51.55
HBO FAMILY PAC (Standard Basic/HBO/Any Premium Except Prism)	\$49.55
FAMILY PLUS (Prism w/Any Two Premiums)	\$56.96
FAMILY PLUS II (Prism w/Any Three Premiums)	\$65.95
FAMILY PLUS III (All 5 Premium Services)	\$74.94

INSTALLATION or RECONNECTION RATES

New Installation or Reconnection***	\$49.95
Vacation Reconnect	\$19.00

ADDITIONAL SERVICE RATES

Change of service at Residence****	\$19.00
Change of service from office	\$10.00
VCR Installation (After Initial Installation)	\$19.00
Returned Check Fee	\$25.00
Late Payment Fee	\$ 7.00
Payment Collected at Residence	\$19.00

* Plus all applicable franchise fees and taxes.

** Expanded Basic is only available in conjunction with Limited.

*** Including reconnection of delinquent accounts.

**** Connection or disconnection of any service except basic.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

the BOROUGH of WILSON

Borough Manager
RUSH W. STEHLIN, JR.

Borough Secretary-Treasurer
JANET K. SIEGFRIED

Solicitor
LOUIS S. MINOTTI, JR.

Code Enforcement Officer
HARVEY W. ACKERMAN



RECEIVED

President of Council
DAVID S. PERRUSO

MAR 22 1993

Vice President of Council
GARY P. TOMAINO

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY DAVID A. SCHUG

GUY B. TOMAINO MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2040 Hay Terrace, Wilson Borough, Pa. 18042
Phone 215-258-6142

December 12, 1992

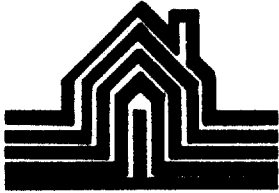
Dear Senator Arlen Specter,

I'm sending this letter to see if you can talk with the other Senators to reverse the vote on the S.12 Bill which is the cable act of 1992. It will hurt the network stations and also, there affiliate stations. They will lose a lot of commercial revenue because it will not be viewed in certain areas if some stations are dropped. It will hurt the politicians in some areas because there political ads will not be viewed if this Bill becomes law. It's never to late to change your votes. The cable increase would be passed onto the customer which is not fair if the cable companies have to pay the network stations and there affiliates. There are a lot of people out of work and the elderly are on a fixed income. They would have to drop the cable because they can no longer afford it. Plus the people who are home bound with dissabilities who relie on television because they don't have any contact with outside world. I'm representing the people of Wilson Borough which elected me to office and I just want to let you know that I'm strongly against the S.12 Bill. The final rule making isn't until April 3, 1993.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Mindell

Walter D. Mindell



SUBURBAN CABLE TV CO.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

November, 1992

Dear Valued Customer:

As you may be aware, on October 5, 1992, the U.S. Congress enacted into law the 1992 Cable Act. As provided by that legislation and subsequently defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), cable subscribers will experience changes in channel line-ups, such as the introduction of tiers (different levels of service) and adjustments to the cable bills. For a brief explanation of some of the provisions contained in the bill, please refer to the following:

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Suburban Cable will continue to carry all of the popular cable programming services (such as AMC, ESPN, CNN, etc.), however, sometime next year, they may be offered on an optional tier, separate from the newly defined "basic" service. Rates for premium channels and pay-per-view will not be regulated.

The new requirements state that a cable company must devote one-third of its channel line-up to local station carriage. Broadcast stations must choose between the right of assured carriage ("must carry") or retransmission consent. If the broadcasters choose retransmission consent, they can negotiate for payment from the cable operator, in return for allowing the signal to be carried.

There are numerous other provisions contained in this legislation. As new guidelines are created by the FCC, we will keep you advised of all important changes.

We are pleased with our record in providing excellent customer service and programming choices. Over the past years, we have continually expanded our channel line-up, enhanced the quality of programming, including the introduction of pay-per-view service, and increased system reliability by investing in fiber optics. Suburban Cable experienced sharply escalating

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

December 7, 1992

1992 DEC 15 AM 12:00

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MAR 22 1993
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Senator Arlen Specter
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
WASHINGTON DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

Today was the day that customers of BERKSCABLE, who are subscribers to Home Box and Cinemax were to get Home Box II and Cinemax II as a **BONUS**. Well, surprise, surprise, we cannot get these bonus free channels unless we rent the special addressable converter box from the cable company for a yearly fee. This added, highly advertised freebie sure fooled a lot of people into thinking the cable company was our friend by giving us something.

This same company is increasing our costs again for certain other services.

What did the bill recently passed in Washington do to help us?? It sure didn't eliminate increases.

I hope Bell Telephone soon gets approval to route cable television over their lines so we have some competition around here.

Sincerely,



Virginia Huyett
19 Tyronne Avenue
Reading, PA 19607

CC BERKSCABLE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Arlen Specter
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3802

1992 DEC 15 AM 12:00

RECEIVED
December 15, 1992

MAR 22 1993
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Specter,

I recently received the attached letter which I find to be a direct affront to the recently passed Cable TV re-regulation bill. You will note that the basic cable rate is being increased to \$20.95, an increase of almost 11%, on January 1. In addition, they threaten to reduce service due to the new regulations. Suburban Cable characterizes this as a "reasonable" increase, yet, I wonder what other businesses are increasing their rates by 11%.

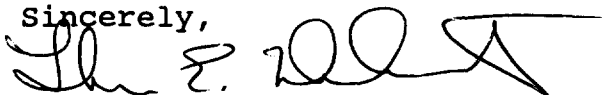
I think that this is totally unjustified. It appears to be an attempt to beat the reregulation law passed by Congress. It deserves additional investigation by your office since it impacts many of your constituents.

The proposed legislation allowing phone companies ("baby Bells") to compete with cable TV companies would alleviate some of these increases due to the competitive environment. Obviously, Suburban Cable does not think they have any competition today, or they wouldn't be raising these rates. I urge you to support the phone companies as they provide this sorely needed competition. Incidentally, "mini dishes" for satellite reception will also increase competition.

The total increases by Suburban Cable amount to over 90% in the past 5 years. The increases cannot be justified on improved service. I suspect that, at most, a half dozen channels (20% increase) have been added over that time frame. Other than college tuition and medical expenses, I cannot think of another service area which has increased as much.

I appreciate your time and understanding.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Werkema, Jr.
608 Jacqueline Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19382
215-587-7851 (business)
215-436-4191 (home)

SUBURBAN CABLE TV

P. O. BOX 351
COATESVILLE, PA. 19320



November, 1992

Dear Valued Customer:

As you may be aware, on October 5, 1992, the U.S. Congress enacted into law the 1992 Cable Act. As provided by that legislation and subsequently defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), cable subscribers will experience changes in channel line-ups, such as the introduction of tiers (different levels of service) and adjustments to the cable bills. For a brief explanation of some of the provisions contained in the bill, please refer to the following:

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There are numerous other provisions contained in this legislation. As new guidelines are created by the FCC, we will keep you advised of all important changes.

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If you are interested in adding more value to your cable service, we invite you to take advantage of a special installation offer on several of our popular premium services. Call before Dec. 30 and we will give you a subscription to Cinemax or Showtime for 3 months at \$3.95 per month.* This represents a monthly savings of up to \$6.00! Please call our Suburban Cable customer service department at 383-4383 or 692-3180 for more details.

Thank you for subscribing to Suburban Cable service. We look forward to providing you with continued quality programming and the efficient customer service that you have come to expect.

Sincerely,

David Heffline
Vice President and General Manager
Suburban Cable TV

*Offer expires Dec. 30, 1992. Offer does not apply to premium service switches. Other restrictions may apply.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

1992 NOV 30 AM 12: 00

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MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 20, 1992

Dear Senator Specter:

As of January 1, our *basic* cable rate will rise to \$19.95 per month. And channels which we currently receive for free, such as CNN, will now be billed separately. I think this is an outrage. \$240 a year, just for the basics?! Where will it end?

I am fortunate enough to be able to afford this amount. But no one should have to pay this much. And many, many people can not. What I fear most is that in some not-too-distant future, as more information is made available through digital networks, cable will be the only way to get television. And the expense will *continue* to rise.

If this is the result of the new Cable Act, then the Cable Act has too many loopholes. Please patch them up. If what it takes is more competition to keep prices reasonable, please enact legislation that will permit that -- such as allowing the phone companies into the game.

Please do your best. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Fred Shamlan

P.S. Congratulations on your re-election. You're doing a great job, and I'm very glad to have you representing me. Keep up the good work.

FREDERICK SHAMLAN ADVERTISING
596 FARNUM ROAD
MEDIA PA 19063
215-565-4230
FAX 565-9597

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 14, 1993

Mr. Raymond E. Miley
Agent
Office of Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
Allentown Regional Office
1251 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.
Suite 309
Allentown, PA 18103

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MAR 22 1993
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

File #G92-396 - Blue Ridge Cable

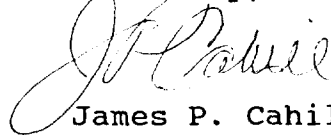
Mr. Raymond E. Miley

-2-

January 14, 1993

How about some action from your office on this price gouging and unethical business practices!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. P. Cahill".

James P. Cahill
9 Jacqueline Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

cc: E. Preate - Harrisburg
FCC - J. Quello, Chairman
✓ Senator A. Spector

Blue Ridge CABLE TELEVISION INC.

Main Office: 471 Delaware Ave., P.O. Box 215, Palmerton, Pa. 18071 - Phone 215-826-2551

Address Reply To

Branch Offices:

RD 6, Box 6922, East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301
PO Box 100, Gilbert, Pa. 18331
PO Box 124, Hawley, Pa. 18428
20 W. Ridge St., Lansford, Pa. 18232
200 N. First St., Lehighton, Pa. 18235

Phone:

717-588-2510
215-681-6100
717-226-4914
717-645-5511
215-377-2250

Branch Offices:

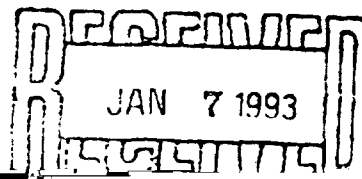
46 N. Academy St., Mansfield, Pa. 16933
204 Fourth St., Milford, Pa. 18367
HC 89, Box 115A, Pocono Summit, Pa. 18346
920 Ehler St., Stroudsburg, Pa. 18360
PO Box 141, Tunkhannock, Pa. 18657

Phone:

717-662-2369
717-296-8200
717-839-3550
717-421-0780
717-836-5422

Raymond E. Miley/Agent
Office of Attorney General
Bureau of Consumer Protection
1251 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Suite 309
Allentown, PA 18103

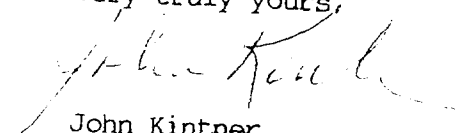
Re: File #G92-3696/ref. John P. Cahill



HBO, Cinemax, etc. The state sales tax does not apply to Broadcast Basic channels.

I hope I have answered the questions outlined in Mr. Cahill's complaint.

Very truly yours,


John Kintner
Resident Manager

Many of my neighbors who like me
are weekend leisure home owners ~~and~~
~~are~~ supporting ~~the~~ the porous economic
structure, are fed up with the price
gouging, and unethical business practices!!
like programming expanded cable service from
42 channels to 52 channels - and because
of this so called improvement gave us
^{1991 and} price increases in 1992 - and then
promptly duplicated many channels
your duplication of channels is mostly disguised
by duplicating one program on channel 2, then
on channel 10 + then on channel 19 - (for enough
apart so most subscribers can hardly notice)
Duplication is also taking place on channels 6 and 7
as well as channels 3 and 8. All of this is within Basic service.
So on basic I get a tremendous waste!!! channels

James E. Viola
237 Huston Avenue
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

December 22, 1992

RECEIVED

MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Donald Reinhard, President
Blue Ridge Cable, Inc.
471 Delaware Avenue
PO Box 215
Palmerton, PA 18071

Dear Mr. Reinhard:

Congratulations on your new and clever marketing strategy for raising the cost of basic cable service. Blue Ridge Cable, along with a host of other cable operators across the country, have found yet another way to "zap" cable customers one last time prior to the Cable Re-regulation Act taking effect April, 1993.

As you are aware, commencing January 1993 your customers will pay \$19.44 monthly (up from \$16.90) for the SAME EXACT CHANNELS. Your term for this is "Basic Plus" service. Why not be honest and refer to it as "basic RIP-OFF" service? After all, that is what this increase actually is.

It is painfully clear that Blue Ridge Cable and the many other cable systems nationwide are out to squeeze whatever they can from the consuming public before the new law takes effect. It is due to increases like this - that I have supported and continue to support - the Cable Re-regulation Act and welcome competition in the cable industry.

By copying the legislators listed below, it is my hope that they will recognize this increase for what it is; fraudulent and irresponsible. I ask them to continue to act accordingly on the public's behalf.

Sincerely Yours,



James Viola

cc: Messrs. U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter
U.S. Sen. Harris Wofford
U.S. Rep. Joseph M. McDade
U.S. Rep. Paul E. Kanjorski
Pocono Record - Editorial Dept.

carried hundreds of people out to sea Saturday on Flores Island and two nearby islands, about 1,000 miles east of Jakarta.

Hundreds of bodies had washed

The devastation was greatest in Maumere, a coastal town where more than 1,000 died.

A village chief on Pulau Babi Island,

Area not immune from national cable-hike trend

NEW YORK — Just 10 weeks after Congress passed a law to grant cable subscribers relief from years of escalating rates, many systems are racing to impose a new round of increases, surcharges and pricing packages before the new law takes effect.

Cable customers across the country are getting sticker shock when they receive their monthly cable bills. In Jamestown, N.D., the local cable system has just levied a 14 percent increase in the monthly charge. In Los Angeles's poor South Central area, Continental Cablevision Inc. jacks up installation fees 91 percent next month, after raising basic rates 11 percent earlier this year. In Nashville, Tenn., a Viacom Inc. system cut the price of the basic service that few subscribers get, but also imposed a fee of almost \$40 for any subscriber who tries to switch to the lower-priced package.

customer wants to receive only broadcast channels it will cost \$10 — plus a \$20 fee to convert.

Kintner said the January rate increase is a standard yearly increase, not a hike in anticipation of the new regulations.

"Right now, nobody really knows what the FCC is going to say," Kintner said. "Our rates have always been in line with the Lehigh Valley."

Lehigh Valley cable companies, too, will undergo yearly rate increases.

Service Electric Cable TV Inc. in Bethlehem plans to hike basic cable rates from \$19 to \$21 starting January 1, although it is adding a new channel, American Movie Classics.

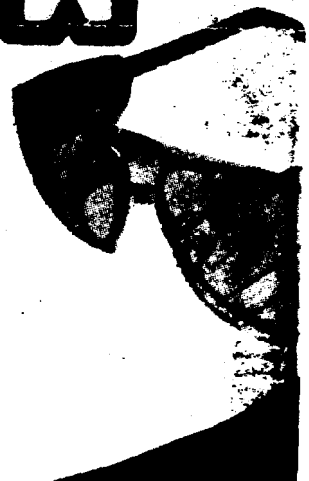
Its competitor, Twin County Cable TV in Northampton, now charges \$18.50 a month for basic cable, which includes 52 channels. But that price, too, will increase to

EAST

105 Crystal

SAME

BOLTON



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*no
address*

December 18, 1992

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MAR 22 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Senator Arlen Specter
Hart Senate Building 303
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Specter:

Please be advised that the local cable TV provider in the Pottstown, Pennsylvania area conveniently raised its rates at the end of December, 1992. I understand through the media that these cable companies have been warned against such increases on the threat that they may eventually be rolled back. As one customer who is concerned with the already high cost of this industry's local service, I send you this information. Please note that a copy of this letter has been sent to the FCC.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Pentz

JMP:bwh

Copy to: Federal Communications Commission
Suburban Cable

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MAR 22 1993

PHILIP A. PFEIFER
3 SPY GLASS LANE
SALEM, SC 29676

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

92-2166

February 12, 1993

Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
Complaints and Investigations Branch
Washington, DC 20554

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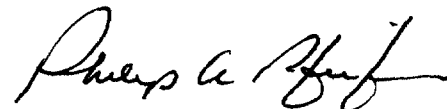
This is to register a complaint concerning what I believe to be excessive rate increases put into effect by Cencom Cable Television Company effective January 1, 1993.

Using the 1989 rate as a base (the year that Cencom purchased the cable company which services our community) our cable cost has increased 59%. The new rate for the basic extended service effective January 1, 1993 is an increase of 12.5% over 1992--three times higher than the inflation rate for the same period.

Cencom has tried to partially justify this by adding several totally uninteresting channels but without any input from their customers as to interest, desire or suitability.

I really believe that Cencom is raising rates beyond reason prior to implementation of the cable bill approved by Congress last October and I respectfully request your investigation of this matter.

Thank you.



PHILIP A. PFEIFER

Cy to: Mr. Tim Morrison
Director of Marketing & Programming
Cencom Cable Television
P.O.Box 850
Simpsonville, SC 29681

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92-2166

I am a subscriber of Cencom Cable Television Co. in
Geowee Key, Salem, South Carolina. I am incensed by the
arrogant attitude this company has displayed in its pricing
policies.

Using the 1989 rate as a base, this company has increased
rates 59% in 4 years. Their most recent rate increase, imposed
on 1/1/93, amounted to a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % increase over 1992--over three
times the rate of inflation. Cencom attempted to justify the
increase by adding three new channels, none of any interest